

Response and Amendment dated 01/13/2006
Response to Office Action dated 10/14/2005

Application No. 10/068,444

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 22-32 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-22 are rejected. No new matter has been introduced into the application. As explained in more detail below, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

Election/Restriction

The Applicant affirms the election of Group I (claims 1-21). The election is made without traverse.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 to 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Rothermel (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,827).

Rothermel discloses a system for managing multiple network security devices with a security policy. Rothermel teaches that network security devices control the spread of information and may be implemented with firewalls and security appliances. (Col. 1, lines 23-26). A copy of a security policy template is sent to each network security device.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim that remains pending. Claim 1 now includes the feature of “a security policy written in a security protocol independent security policy language.” At most Rothermel teaches distributing a security policy to network security devices. Rothermel does not teach or suggest using a security protocol independent security policy language to create such a policy. As indicated in paragraph 6, of the present application, a security framework that is security protocol independent can support multiple cryptographic technologies. Moreover, as indicated in paragraph 43 of the present application, abstracting underlying protocols facilitates interoperability with other systems. This is in contrast to the system disclosed in Rothermel in which the security policy must use the existing security protocols utilized by the network security devices.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, and 5 to 19 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 4, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rothermel as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Saulpaugh (U.S. Patent No. 6,850,979).

Claims 4, 20 and 21 each ultimately depend from claim 1 and are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition. No new matter has been introduced into the application. In light of the above arguments, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should it be deemed necessary to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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